Attorney Docket No.: 10181.210-US PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ness et al.

Confirmation No: TBA

Serial No.: TBA

Group Art Unit: TBA

Filed: December 15, 2003

Examiner: TBA

For: Subtilisin Variants

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: